

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 03566 051627Z

71

ACTION EUR-10

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R 051534Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 825

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 3566

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SW US

SUBJECT: U.S.-SWEDISH BILATERAL RELATIONS

1. IN CALL ON EDELSTAM (DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS AT MFA) ON OTHER BUSINESS TODAY, THE LATTER BROUGHT UP SUBJECT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS. HE SAID HE HAD HEARD FROM SWEDISH CHARGE IN WASHINGTON THAT THERE WAS SOME ACTIVITY UNDER WAY IN THAT AREA AND ASKED WHAT I KNEW. I SAID THE ANSWER WAS NOT MUCH AND INQUIRED WHAT HE HAD HEARD.

2. EDELSTAM SAID THAT ADMIRAL BURKE HAD MET WITH SWEDISH NAVAL ATTACHE AND HAD PUT FORTH SOME IDEAS TO WORK RELATIONS BACK TO NORMAL. HE SAID ADMIRAL'S MAIN POINTS SEEMED TO BE : (1) THAT RETURN TO NORMALCY SHOULD BE GRADUAL, PERHAPS STARTING WITH DISPATCH OF "EN EMISSARY" TO EXPLORE SITUATION, AND (2) NEXT U.S. AMBASSADOR SHOULD BE MAN WITH SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE OF AND AFFINITY FOR SWEDISH.

3. EDELSTAM SAID THAT, "SPEAKING PERSONALLY, " HE HAD SOME DOUBTS ABOUT ALL THIS. HE SAID HE THOUGH THAT WHAT WAS NEEDED ON BOTH SIDES WAS A PROFESSIONAL. AS FOR GRADUAL STEPS BACK TO NORMALIZATION, HE SAID: "I DON'T SEE THE NEED. IF WE DON'T HAVE AN AMBASSADOR, WE ARE PERFECTLY SATISFIED WITH YOU. I SUPPOSE YOU FEEL RATHER THE SAME BRACKETS ABOUT SWEDISH REPRESENTATION IN WASHINGTON END BRACKETS. THE ISSUE IS, DO WE HAVE

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PAGE 02 STOCKH 03566 051627Z

AMBASSADORS. IT IS NOT COMPLICATED."

4. I ASKED EDELSTAM IF GOS POSITION WAS THAT THERE SHOULD BE
MORE OR LESS SIMULTANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENT OR EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS.
HE DID NOT ANSWER QUESTION DIRECTLY, BUT LEFT LITTLE DOUBT THAT
THAT WAS THE WAY STOCKHOLM WOULD PREFER IT.
OLSEN

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